



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

NEWS RELEASE

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Baucus Encourages Donations to Disaster Effort

Senator Says Less Than a Week Remains to Receive Tax Deduction

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) Today, U.S. Senator Max Baucus (D-Mont), ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, reminded individuals and corporations less than a week remains to receive a tax deduction for contributions made to aid the tsunami victims for the 2005 filing season. The provision expires for donations made after Monday, January 31, 2005. Americans have donated over \$585 million to help victims of the Indian Ocean Tsunami.

Earlier this month, Senator Baucus, joined by Chairman Charles Grassley, introduced legislation allowing extra time for Americans to make cash donations to charities supporting relief operations in the Indian Ocean basin. Under the new law, taxpayers will be permitted to claim a tax deduction in tax year 2004 for cash donations made before January 31, 2005, for tsunami disaster relief.

“The response by the American public has been incredible,” Baucus said. “Rebuilding these countries will take decades. The donations made will expedite this healing process and save millions from disease, famine, and homelessness.”

Charitable organizations have been receiving generous donations to aid with the relief efforts. Those coordinating the efforts have been asking for cash donations to eliminate the burden of shipping goods overseas and to stimulate economic growth by allowing cash to flow into local economies.

Kenneth L. Gladish, Ph.D., National Executive Director, YMCA of the USA thanked those who have donated to this cause.

“YMCA of the USA is extremely thankful for the contributions we have received over the past few weeks that will help our relief and rebuilding work in the devastated areas affected by the tsunami,” said Gladish. “There were many YMCAs in the region severely affected by this disaster, in the coastal areas of India and in the east and south of Sri Lanka as well. Immediately, these shattered Ys began outreach and relief to their communities and quickly organized shelters for children. To help injured, orphaned and homeless children who are in desperate need of comfort, I encourage all Americans to take advantage of this tax provision and act before the end of January by making a contribution to one of the many charitable organizations responding to this crisis.”

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